

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 YAOUND 02685 311756Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ARA-10 HA-05 CIAE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 EB-08 /109 W  
-----024933 311806Z /46

O R 311645Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5653  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY ECJ2/J4-7

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 2685

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: MPOL, CM  
SUBJ: SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA AND CAMEROONIAN SECURITY

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 2660 (NOTAL) (B) YAOUNDE 2658 (NOTAL) (C) STATE  
134913

1. SUMMARY: CONVERSATIONS WITH SENIOR CAMEROONIAN DEFENSE OFFICIALS  
REVEAL THAT EVENTS IN CHAD AND ZAIRE HAVE INCREASED THEIR CONCERN  
OVER THEIR OWN SECURITY POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. FURTHER INFO ON EFFECTS OF REGIONAL INSTABILITY ON THINKING SENIOR  
CAMEROONIAN MILITARY LEADERS EMERGED DURING (MAY 30-31) SERIES  
PROTOCOL VISITS UNDERTAKEN BY LT. COL. IRVING, DEFENSE ATTACHE,  
RESIDENT NDJAMENA. ACCOMPANIED BY DCM, IRVING CALLED ON GENERAL  
SEMENGUE, INSPECTOR GENERAL AND DIRECTOR COORDINATION STAFF, ISSA  
BAKARY, GENERAL DELEGATE FOR THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE, AND COL  
SERGE RIAC, FRENCH ARMED FORCES ATTACHE. HE LATER CALLED ON LT. COL.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 YAOUND 02685 311756Z

GIRAUD, SENIOR (FRENCH) ADVISOR TO GENDARMERIE ALONE.

3. SEMENGUE, WAS JOINED BY COL. EDOUARD EKOTO ETONDE, (BOTH  
SOUTHERNERS) FORMERLY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL OFFICE OF PAR-  
TICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT AND THIRD RANKING OFFICER CAMEROONIAN  
ARMY. THEY MADE POINT THAT SHABA II REVEALED THE RESOLVE OF  
THE SOVIETS AND THEIR CUBAN SURROGATES TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO

EXTEND INFLUENCE FROM ANGOLA INTO CENTRAL AFRICA. THEY FELT MOBUTU REGIME WAS CORRUPT AND INEFFICIENT. CITED LATE MRS. BOBUTU'S MONOPOLY OF CLOTH MARKET, UNAVAILABILITY OF FOODSTUFFS IN LOCAL MARKETS, GENERAL LEVEL OF CORRUPTION, ESPECIALLY ABUSIVE CORRUPTION OF MILITARY. THEY BELIEVED MOBUTU HAD TO BE REPLACED AND A NEW REGIME MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE INSTALLED. THEY CONSIDERED ZAIRE TOO BIG A JOB FOR THE FRENCH AND BELGIANS AND THAT ONLY U.S. COULD SAVE ZAIRE FROM DISINTEGRATION. THEY WERE TOLD THAT U.S. DID NOT WISH BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN AFRICAN PROBLEMS AND THAT OUR PREFERRED WAY OF DEALING WITH COUNTRIES WHO FELT ILL-EQUIPPED TO HANDLE SECURITY PROBLEMS WAS TO SUPPORT THEM WITH MODEST FMS CREDIT PROGRAMS, AS WE HAVE IN CASE OF CAMEROON.

4. IT OBVIOUS THESE TWO OFFICERS WERE NOT CONVINCED. THE CAUSE OF THEIR WORRY SOON BECAME APPARENT AS THEY EXPOUNDED ON THE LATEST WRINKLE IN THE CAMEROON ENCIRCLEMENT THEORY. SEMENGUE AND ETONDE REASONED THAT VITAL SHABA MINING AREAS WERE PRACTICALLY CLOSED AND PROSPECTS OF REOPENING WITH NEEDED INFUSION OF EUROPEAN TECHNICIANS AND CAPITAL VIRTUALLY NIL UNDER BOBUTU AND HIS CORRUPT REGIME. TASK BEYOND CAPABILITIES OF FRENCH AND BELGIANS, SO THEY REASONED ONLY AMERICANS LEFT, BUT FIRST MOBUTU MUST GO. WORST POSSIBLE CASE ANALYSIS, WHICH CAMEROONIANS TEND FOLLOW WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR SECURITY, IS THAT FAILURE TO REMOVE MOBUTU WILL RESULT IN ZAIRE'S SINKING MORE AND MORE INTO CORRUPT ECONOMIC CHAOS AND INCREASING LIKELIHOOD RADICAL REGIME FAVORABLE TO ANGOLA BEING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 YAOUND 02685 311756Z

INSTALLED. IF THAT HAPPENS, THEN SMALL CHANCE NEIGHBORING CONGO CAN CONTINUE PRESENT MODERATE POLICIES. EVENTUALLY THAT COUNTRY WILL SUCCUMB TO RADICAL INFLUENCES AND THEN THE UNION DES POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN (UPC), OUTLAWED CAMEROON OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTY THAT MOUNTED CROSS BORDER RAIDS FROM THE CONGO IN 60'S, WILL AGAIN HAVE A SECURE BASE FROM WHICH TO OPERATE. IT IS THIS EVENTUALITY, ACCORDING TO SEMENGUE AND ETONDE, FOR WHICH THE GURC MUST PREPARE AND IS MAJOR RATIONALE FOR THEIR DESIRE TO IMPROVE THEIR DEFENSE POSTURE.

5. ISSA BAKARY, A NORTHERNER IN CHARGE OF THE GENDARMERIE, GAVE A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT PICTURE. SINCE THE ONLY ARMED FORCE IN THE NORTH IS A LEGION OF GENDARMES BASED IN GAROUA, HE WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH THE NORTHERN SECURITY SITUATION. WHEN HE WAS REASSURED BY OUR DEFENSE ATTACHE THAT ALL WAS CALM FOR THE MOMENT IN CHAD, HE REPLIED THAT IT WAS ONLY CALM ON THE SURFACE. HE WAS NOT IMPRESSED WITH PURPORTED EFFORTS TO BRING NORTHERNERS INTO THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT. WHAT HE WAS REALLY INTERESTED IN WAS WHAT EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE TO BRING SOUTHERN CHADIAN ELEMENTS INTO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO GIVE THEM A SENSE OF PARTICIPATION. HE CITED THE MASSA, KOTOKO, TOUPOURI, MOUSGOUN, MOUDANG AND FULANI AS TRIBES THAT STRADDLED THE BORDER AREA AND OBSERVED THAT UNREST AMONG A GROUP ON

ONE SIDE OF THE BORDER TENDED TO SPREAD LIKE A VIRUS TO THE OTHER SIDE  
OF THE BORDER. THEREFORE, CAMEROON HAD A DIRECT INTEREST IN EFFORTS  
OF THE CHADISANS TO EFFECT NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. HE ALSO CRITICAL  
OF LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN CHAD AND SAID THAT IN EFFECT THEY ACTING AS  
SOVIET SURROGATES. HE SAW GRAND DESIGN FOR SOVIETS TO EXTEND  
THEIR INFLUENCE SOUTHWARDS FROM LIBYA THROUGH CHAD, JUST AS THERE  
WAS COUNTERPART EFFORT EXTENDING NORTHWARDS FROM ANGOLA, CABINDA,  
CONGO. IN BOTH CASES THE COMMON TARGET WAS CAMEROON. WHEN EFFORT  
MADE TO DISUADE HIM BY POINTING OUT THAT THERE APPEARED BE EFFORT OF  
SOVIETS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY BUT NO GRAND  
DESIGN, HE DEMURRED AND SAID THAT THE SOVIETS WERE TESTING POTENTIAL  
AREAS FOR INCREASING THEIR INFLUENCE AND WHERE THEY FELT THEY WERE  
UNOPPOSED (AND IT CLEAR HE THOUGHT THEY WERE CURRENTLY UNOPPOSED),  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 YAOUND 02685 311756Z

THEY MOVED FORWARD. THEREFORE, CONTINUING HIS "WORST CASE"  
ANALYSIS, CAMEROON BECOMES A PRIME TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY CUM  
GRAND DESIGN.

6 CONVERSATION WITH RIAC REVEALED THAT CAMEROONIANS HAD BEEN  
TALKING TO HIM ALSO ABOUT THEIR SECURITY CONCERNS. HE  
VOLUNTEERED BAKARY'S PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF CHAD AND INDICATED THAT  
WHILE HE UNDERSTOOD HOW CAMEROONIANS FELT, HE DID NOT SHARE  
THEIR PESSIMISM. WHEN ASKED WHAT FRENCH WERE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT,  
RIAC SAID THAT THEY HAD AGREED TO FURNISH GURC TWO MISSILE-  
EQUIPPED (EITHER AS-11 OR AS-12) ALLOUETTE III HELICOPTERS. LT.  
CO. GIRAUD, HE SENIOR FRENCH ADVISOR TO THE GENDARMERIE,  
TOLD DATT THAT THE FRENCH WERE FURNISHING A SQUADRON OF 13 AMX'S  
TO THE GENDARMERIE NEXT YEAR.

7. COMMENT: THE ABOVE REPRESENTS THE LATEST EXPRESSION OF  
SENIOR GURC DEFENSE OFFICIALS PREOCCUPATION WITH THEIR WON SECURITY.  
THEY MERELY SEE CURRENT EVENTS AS THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF  
WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TO HAVE BEEN A CONTINUAL AIM SINCE THE EARLY  
60'S OF THE RUSSIANS, CUBANS AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, THE  
ALGERIANS AND FRENCH LEFTWING TO SUPPLANT THE PRESENT MODERATE  
AHIDJO GOVERNMENT WITH A PROGRESSIVE UPC GOVERNMENT. WHILE TO A  
DISINTERESTED OBSERVER THESE FEARS ARE CLEARLY EXAGGERATED AND MAY  
BORDER ON PARANOIA, THEY ARE NEVERTHELESS REAL TO THOSE IN CHARGE OF  
THE DEFENSE OF CAMEROON. AND, AS A FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE  
OBSERVED: "EVEN PARANOIDS HAVE REAL ENEMIES."  
SMYTHE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SECURITY, INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978YAOUND02685  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X2  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780227-0982  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** YAOUNDE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t1978051/aaaaaaeu.tel  
**Line Count:** 163  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 114ebe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 YAOUNDE 2660, 78 YAOUNDE 2658  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2502390  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA AND CAMEROONIAN SECURITY  
**TAGS:** MPOL, PDEV, CM  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/114ebe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014